

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/000,065

Applicant(s)

KINOSHITA, YOSHIKI

Examiner

Sajous Wesner

Art Unit

2628

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the response filed on 3/7/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-7.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Remark

This communication is responsive to the amendment and response dated March 7, 2006. Claims 1-7 are presented for examination.

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-7, after further reconsideration and search, are deemed to contain allowable subject matters and, are allowed over the prior art.

Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The present invention is directed to a method of generating a trapping region based on an image that is divided into a large number of small areas that are defined by straight lines extended in a predetermined direction through vertices of the polygonal shapes comprising in the image.

The Dermer (US Pat. 5668931) reference, although he teaches a trapping area creating method using an image composed of polygonal shapes with color boundary line (see figs. 17-20), Dermer, as argued by the Applicant in the 3/7/06 communication, fails to teach a trapping area creating method by dividing an image, represented by a combination of polygons to which colors are applied, into a plurality of image areas by at least one straight line passing through at least one vertex of the polygons, wherein an image area is designated by the at least one straight line and the boundaries of a polygon divided by the at least one straight line so as to create a band-shaped trapping

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area extending along a boundary of two image areas (as recited in claims 1, 6 and 7, in conjunction with the other limitations recited in the claims).

Geurts et al. (US 20010055130) teaches a method of generating a trap pixel of a trap area surrounding one or more trapping edges of an image, by comparing the distance of the pixel from the trapping edge according to a distance measure with a provided measure indicative of the distance of the pixel from any edge of the image to determine if each pixel is closer to the trapping edge, and if so, set a trap color for the trap pixel (see paragraph 18). Line edge objects are provided one at a time, in order to use the geometric description to set the distance buffer and set all pixels with the trapping distance as trapping pixels (see paragraph 108). However, Geurts, like Dermer, fails to teach the above underlined claimed features of the invention. For the aforementioned reason, the limitations of claims 1-7 of the instant application are allowed over the prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sajous Wesner whose telephone number is 571-272-

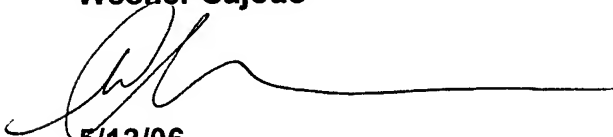
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7791. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays thru Fridays between 10:30 and 7:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tung Kee can be reached on 571-272-7794. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Wesner Sajous

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Wesner Sajous', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

5/13/06